

Specialized Programs & Services

Title: Career Guidance

Reference:

Section 33-1212, Idaho Code; IDAPA 08.02.03.108, Comprehensive School Counseling Programs. This rule states in part “In each Idaho school, a comprehensive guidance program will be provided as an integral part of the educational program.”

Section 33-1212, Idaho Code; IDAPA 08.02.03.104.02, Student Learning Plans. This rule states in part that “No later than grade eight (8) all students will develop parent-approved student learning plans for their high school and post-high school options.”

Purpose: The Division recognizes that school counseling is a vital, integral part of the total educational system. For this reason, the Division supported and contributed to the development of a comprehensive counseling program model which is an integral part of the educational program. This model has become a vital link in the total package of education delivered to our youth. Under the model, a school counseling program must be available to all students; it must consist of curriculum activities that address and meet the various student educational needs; and it must also be part of counselor, teacher, and administrator education programs being taught at Idaho colleges and universities. Idaho educators and legislators responded to these expectations by changing traditional counselor-centered services to student-centered programs.

The primary purpose of the *Idaho Comprehensive School Counseling Program Model* is to assist local districts in developing their own counseling program as they help all students develop parent-approved student learning plans. This model is one from which school districts may extract those components that best meet their individualized needs. The intent of the program standards is to address the education of the whole person.

The Division also supports the development of four-year, parent-approved student learning plans in eighth grade. To address this activity, the Division puts resources into professional development activities and resources for the Middle/Junior High School. Examples of middle level activities include: the purchase and distribution of the American Careers Planner for 8th graders; a middle school track at Summer Conference; presentations at the Idaho Middle Level Association annual conference; Blueprints CD with developmentally appropriate classroom activities tied in to Idaho Achievement Standards; etc.

While the emphasis often seems focused on secondary schools, the Division is also committed to providing guidance activities for postsecondary counselors. These are included in the activities mentioned above. The Division provides leadership, technical assistance and advocacy for school and technical college counselors. It also promotes successful career development for students. This is done through a variety of delivery methods:

- Professional development and training opportunities through PTE Summer Conference, Fall Career Development Workshops, Counselor Education classes, and other specialized training activities
- Tools (information and resources)

- Recognition of outstanding programs through the PTE Awards Program
- Promotion of Idaho counseling organizations (ICGA, ISCA, ICDA)
- Support for the development of accurate, up-to-date career information through the Idaho Career Information System
- Promotion of excellence through counselor certification
- Promotion of career development K-Adult
- Support for *Career Development Facilitator (CDF)* training
- Maintaining the state contract for *Dependable Strengths Articulation Process (DSAP)* training
- Support for student learning plans (8th grade)
- Sponsorship for a statewide Idaho Counseling Program Advisory Board
- Assistance with the selection of students for the Roger Sathre Scholarship

These and other career guidance activities provide schools and technical colleges with tools and services to assist students in making informed educational and career decisions.

Contact Guidance/Special Project, at 334-3216.

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